

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, UV, US

SUBJECT: VOLTAN AMBASSADOR REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN
OBTAINING MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 51664, MAR. 7, 195

1. VOLTAN AMBASSADOR TO US YAGUIBOU CALLED ON AF BUREAU
AUGUST18 TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF PLANNED COM-
MERCIALPURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ITEMS GOUV
INTERESTED IN PURCHASING ARE: 2000 M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLES
ALONG WITH 50 TELESCOPIC SIGHTS, 500,000 ROUNDS OF AMMU-
NITION, 200,000 BLANK ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, AND 2000
ADAPTERS FOR FIRING BLANKS; 200 INGRAM SUB-MACHINE GUNS;
AND 12 HOSPITAL TENTS. YAGUIBOU SAID THAT GOUV ALSO
INTERESTED IN MIDDLE-RANGE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, LIKE LOCK-
HEED HERCULES. GOUV WOULD DEFINITELY REQUIRE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE FOR MAINTENANCE AND PILOTING OF TRANSPORT AIR-
CRAFT. YAGUIBOU SAID GOUV MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN
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PURCHASING UNIFORMS, BUT HE WAS UNSURE IF AMERICAN-

MANUFACTURED UNIFORMS WERE OF THE PROPER PRICE AND QUALITY.

2. YAGUIBOU SAID THAT GOUV PREPARED TO PURCHASE ABOVE
ITEMS ON STRICTLY
COMMERCIAL BASIS. AFTER INITIAL TRANSACTION, HOWEVER, GOUV

WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
FOR MATERIEL WITH LONGER LIFESPAN. ONE REASON GOUV PRE-
PARED TO PAY CASH FOR THESE ITEMS IS THAT, DUE TO GOUV
BUDGET CYCLE, EACH MINISTRY MUST SPEND ITS ALLOTMENT OF
FUNDS BY OCTOBER OR BE REQUIRED TO REMIT SURPLUS FUNDS
TO CENTRAL TREASURY. MINDEFENSE PREFERS PURCHASING US
EQUIPMENT TO REMITTING SURPLUS FUNDS TO GOUV CENTRAL
TREASURY.

3. AS EMBASSY AWARE, DEPARTMENT SUSPENDED SALES OF
MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO UPPER VOLTA AND MALI IN EARLY 1975
AND INFORMED YAGUIBOU BY AIDE MEMOIRE ON MARCH 6, 1975
THAT IN LIGHT OF TERRITORIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALI AND
UPPER VOLTA, THE US WOULD NOT EXPORT MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TO UPPER VOLTA. THIS PROHIBITION HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED
SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THEN, MOST RECENTLY WHEN THE DEPART-
MENT DENIED AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR TWO SUBMACHINE GUNS ON
APRIL 9, 1976. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD ANY OFFICIAL
INDICATION THAT THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND
UPPER VOLTA HAS BEEN SETTLED. WE ARE ALSO MINDFUL THAT
IF WE RESUME EXPORT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO UPPER
VOLTA WE WOULD BE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO DO THE SAME
FOR MALI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT OF
ADDRESSEES ON DESIRABILITY OF LIFTING BAN ON SALES OF
MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO UPPER VOLTA AND MALI. WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE ESTIMATE OF WHEN BORDER DISPUTE MIGHT BE SAID
TO BE OFFICIALLY OVER. KISSINGER

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